



**For Immediate Release
Wednesday, January 31, 2007**

World Changers Returning to Chattanooga to Provide Free Home Repair

Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator of the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development announces that the department, in partnership with Front Porch Alliance and the City's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, will again sponsor the World Changers program. During the week of July 21st through 28th, 2007, World Changers, a ministry of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist, will return to Chattanooga, bringing volunteer laborers from all over the country to provide free home repairs to qualifying homeowners in low to moderate income neighborhoods. Projects include painting, siding, porch repair, construction of handicap ramps, and more.

Since their first project in Chattanooga in 2001, World Changers has rehabbed over 100 homes for some of our most deserving residents. The volunteer laborers will return to Chattanooga organized in crews consisting of primarily teenagers with adult supervision. So far, 404 youth have registered for the Chattanooga project. Though the work is performed by volunteers, many of the crew supervisors are construction professionals, skilled craftsmen, or have years of experience with World Changers and similar home repair projects.

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development and Front Porch Alliance will provide funding support for the cost of building materials and related supplies while the Office of Faith-Based Community Partnerships will provide programmatic support. Brainerd Baptist Church will provide lodging and meals for the volunteers. Applications are currently being accepted for this year's project. Elderly, disabled and low-income homeowners are encouraged to apply. To receive an application, please call the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development at (423) 425-3741, or Front Porch Alliance at (423) 756-8545, or go to <http://www.chattanooga.gov/Files/HomeRepair.pdf> to print a copy of the application.

The application deadline is March 30, 2007.

For more information about this release contact Vanessa Jackson at 423-425-3741.